Message Text

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R 091117Z APR 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, PH, US

SUBJECT:SHIPPING: GOP PREFERENCE DECREE

REF: MANILA 4659

1. REPORTED CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN DEPT AND EUROPEANS/
JAPANESE ON PD 894, AS IT PERTAINS TO MARITIME SHIPPING
ONLY, RPT ONLY, HAS PEEN CONFINED TO DATE TO TO ENCOUNTERS -- ONE TELEPHONIC AND THE OTHER SOCIAL -- 'ITH
A REP (BRITISH) OF LOCAL 'COTTON CLUB", CONSISTING OF
JAPANESE AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN SHIPPING ATTACHES. TELEPHONICALLY, THE REP WAS INFORMED THAT PD 894 APPEARED
TO, INTER ALIA, MIRROR SEVERAL U.S. SHIPPING PREFERENCE
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PRACTICES; AND WHILE APPARENTLY THE DECREE IS VERY BROAD

IN SCOPE OF APPLICATION, THE EXTENT AND EFFECT THEREOF ERE YET TO BE DETERMINED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO JOI4 IN A COMMON APPROACH ON THE DECREE AS IT AFFECTS SHIPPING AT THIS TIME. COTTON CLUB REP, HOEVER, WAS REQESTED TO CHECK BACK WITH THE DEPT THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR A MORE DEFINITIVE VIEW ON THE MATTER. AT S;BSEQUENT SOCIAL ENCOUNTER, HE WAS INFORMED THAT DEPTOFFS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS DECREE AND EXPLORE POSSIBLE COURSES OF COMMON ACTION WITH THE COTTON CLUB MEMBERS. NO FURTHER ORD HAS 0EEN FORTHCOMTNG FROM THE GROU... 2. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM THAT PD 894 PRESENTS FOR USG IS THAT WE ARE FORCED TO PLAY ITH TWO DECKS OF CARDS RE ANY COUNTERING OF THIS LATEST GOP EFFORT, SINCE USG MARITIME AND AIR POLICIES ARE PASED ON SEPARATE AND DIS-TINCT REGIMES NECESSITATING DIFFERENT RESPONSES. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO BEAR THIS IN MIND RE FUTURE REPORTING AND 'HENEVER POSSI, LE ATTEMPT TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE CIVAIR AND SHIPPING ASPECTS OF THE MATTER WHEN SLOT-TING CABLES. AVIATION ASPECTS OF ISSUE BEING TREATED SEPTEL.

- 3. REPRESENTATIONS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, ON PD 894 ON THE MARITIME ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WOULD BE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT LEVERAGE (THREAT OF SECTION 19, ETC). WE ARE AWARE THE DECREE HAS BROAD ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS. HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL EXTENT THERE-OF IS YET TO BE DETERMINED AND CAN ONLY BE EVALUATED UPON APPLICATION. THE PREVIOUS PD 667 PROPLEM DIFFERED IN THAT THE EFFECTS THEREOF WERE PRACTICALLY IMMEDIATE UPON PUBLICATION OF THE DECREE AS PHILIPPIN SHIPPERS. ACTED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO SHIP ON NATIONAL LINES TO GAIN FUTURE TAX BENEFITS.
- 4. UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF ACTUAL IMPACT OF PD 894 ON OUR MARITIME COMMERCE AND U.S.-FLAG LINES, E ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO MOVE FOR ARD ON THE REPRESENTATIONAL FRONT. OUR FLAG LINES IN THE TRADES ASWELL AS THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO KEEP THE INTERESTED WASHINGTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENCIES APPRISED OF ANY DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AS A RESULT OF THE DECREE. EMPASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS LOCALLY. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY SUPSEQUENT REPRESENTATIONS FROM INDUSTRY OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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